



Cobb's Quay Berth Holders Association

MINUTES of the 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at COBB'S QUAY BOAT HOUSE on SATURDAY 16th MARCH commencing at 10.30am.

Committee Members Present:-

Jonathan Saunders – Chair
Mike Brine – Vice Chair
Kevin Butler – Cruise Leader/Web Liaison
Ian Wateridge – Merchandise & Ass. Resources
Val Grant – Membership Secretary
Jim Reynolds – Members Representative
Jennie Higson – Treasurer
Peter Hayton – Horizons Editor
Clive Snow – No Portfolio

Apologies from Committee members:-

Nina Dunne – Cruising Secretary
Carol Turner – Secretary

Jonathan welcomed the guests Jon Eads - MDL COO, Peter Hogsden - Marina Manager and Dave Wilson - MDL Regional Manager. He thanked the members for attending and also the Boat House for hosting the AGM. He also thanked the committee for their efforts through the year and for preparing for the AGM.

Minutes of 2012 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 17th March 2012 had been posted on the CQBHA website and copies were available at the meeting. Ivor Moorhouse proposed that the minutes should be accepted and this was seconded by Val Grant. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

Jonathan reminded members of the key **Aims & Objectives of the Association for 2012**, which were:-

Purpose

- Bring people together to have a better experience cruising from Cobb's Quay and Davis'

Vision

- Enabling members to 'Go Further'

Key Strategies

- Develop members' experience of cruising from Cobb's Quay
- Continue to enhance communication with members
- Promote safety and skills
- Continue to be seen by MDL as a valuable partner

2012 Activities

- Positively influence the functionality of the second bridge
- Maximize the opportunity offered by Active Marina for member training and RYA relationships

- Implement a new website & email communication method
- Have a positive impact on the use of the Backwater Channel and the Harbour
- Continue to develop communication with members
- Develop article content in Horizons Magazine and make self financing
- Liaise with MDL to give value add to members enhancing our joint working
- Continue to develop the financial input from revenue generating activities
- Use finances prudently to the benefit of all members
- Drive up membership numbers by 20 during the year
- Continue to develop a relationship with Davis' Boatyard - office and members
- Establish and run at least 3 non cruising events to include social and training activities.

There had been a number of successful **member events during 2012** including:-

- Cruises - which are still the core of what we do
- Events including the Boat Jumble
- Development opportunities especially with the Active Marina programme with shorebased courses, practical events and a supported cruise
- Visits to Harbour Control - thanks again to support from Brad Bradshaw - and a visit to the new bridges control room

The key **Association Successes for 2012** have been:-

- Influencing the procedures and use of the Bridges. We have played our part in achieving a practical Summer timetable and contributed to use issues e.g. pontoons
- Membership increased by 12 this year – we now have around 800 members
- Communication has been achieved through the website - thanks to Tony & Peter Hayton who have created the new website for us (plus others who helped with content), now with a facility for leaving comments - and our monthly member news email
- We have consulted with members over the Wind Farm, Summer Party ideas, Cruising programme, but have had little response sadly
- We have also encouraged responses to matters such as Navigation Bill, Portland helicopter rescue, Wind Farm, PHC enforcement powers
- Finances. As ever there has been prudent financial control but without income from party we have lost £1013.49 this year
- We have invested in a new website for this year as we see this as the main and most effective method of communication with the members. It is also the most cost effective. There have been lots of hits on the new website since its inception in February. It is very important that now we have a new website, members must visit it and use it.

The **key focus for 2013** will be to:-

- Positively influence the functionality of the bridges
- Maximise the opportunity offered by Active Marina for member training and RYA relationships

Our **plans for 2013** are:-

- An exciting 2013 Cruise programme visiting Brighton, Northney, Guernsey, Cherbourg, Lymington – Small Boat/Dry Stack Day Cruise, St Cast and Weymouth with pontoon party. We will be continuing the 'required' briefing attendance and enhanced skipper guidance.
- Training. Here there is a clear focus on Active Marina in association with the RYA with full or part funded bridge use training, small boat mooring skills and shorebased passage planning and pilotage courses. We would be really keen for you to tell us what else you would like
- Representation again is important with member representation through Pontoon reps – we especially need a yacht rep – and maybe another Dry Stack rep. Also MDL/CQBHA contact at many levels and a strong attempt to enhance the link with Bridges Operating Board.
- In regard to events, in addition to our involvement in the Marina fun weekend on the 13th and 14th April, we plan (on those days) a Boat Jumble – (there will be a CQBHA table, quality boat jumble only) and Harbour Control visits. There are no plans for a Summer Party this year. There will however be special events for Dry Stackers with a small boat cruise and BBQ sponsored by MDL.
- We hope to involve yacht members in Active Marina - and maybe establish a yacht specific section?
- In regard to the Twin Sails Bridge/Poole Bridge, we plan to continue to lobby the Bridges Operating Board and respond positively to any consultation requests – but we need member input.
- Communication will be achieved in the form of :-
 - Our monthly e newsletter - so please make sure we have your up to date email and other details
 - More reps for dry stack and yachting
 - The new website – an important time to look at it regularly
 - The Horizons magazine
 - Give us your views and, as ever, we need articles & advertising
 - There are hard copies to purchase

Jonathan summarised by saying that :-

- During 2012/13 the Committee has continued to work hard to take the Association forward – but we need more ideas of what you want, no plans for a summer party this year
- The link with Bridges Operating Board is still there but we must look to strengthen it
- Cruising is still at the heart of the Association – this will be the same for 2013 but with, as ever, an eye on cost – we still see this as what is wanted (?) but please support them
- There will be limited other activity – including visits and a small boat cruise & BBQ to engage those berth holders as members

and reminding members of the Vision for **CQBHA - "Enabling members to go further"**

Secretary's Report

No separate Secretary's report was given.

Treasurer's Report

The Chairman presented accounts for 2012/2013 – which had been audited by the Michael Dufty Partnership Limited. Copies were available for members at the meeting. While the Association's events in 2012 had resulted in a loss – CQBHA still maintained a bank balance of just over £10,000. Michael Brine proposed that the accounts should be accepted. This was seconded by Kevin Butler and accepted unanimously.

Cruising Secretary's Report

No separate cruising report was given.

Election of Officers

A nomination from Emma Butler had been received. The committee members were willing to stand for re-election. The Chairman therefore suggested that the committee be re-elected en bloc in their current roles. This was proposed by Beatrice Doppita, seconded by Tony Grant and accepted unanimously. The committee would co-opt other people if required.

Appointment of Auditor

The current auditor – Dave Whale – from the Michael Dufty Partnership Ltd was re-elected unanimously.

The Chairman then declared the official business of the AGM completed.

Guest Speaker 1: Jon Eads – Managing Director, COO MDL Marinas

When Jon talked about the bridge last year, it was unknown territory. 2012 wasn't a good year - the timetable was unpopular, the pontoons had no cleats and boaters found it difficult mooring. The monthly BOB meeting highlighted issues with the rowing club causing a hazard at bridge opening times. The reliability of the bridge was also a problem e.g. software problems and tarmac falling off the bridge.

At the Southampton Boat Show Jon spoke to berth holders and found the timetable was the main problem. After lengthy discussions, a timetable was produced to allow the boats through as quickly as possible. 34 different bridge operators were trained and given a boat handling course, but after the summer only 6 remained, 28 left after finding the job too difficult. However the current supervisor, Greg Buxton, is a fellow mariner and is very keen on customer service.

After resolving the timetable issues, the next problem is the holding pontoon fenders scratching the boats. Peter Hogsden and the CQ crew have identified floats to be positioned to create a solid wall at a cost of £2000 to the Council.

To solve the problem of reliability of the Twin Sails bridge, the Council have purchased a computer with WiFi, so communication can take place with the engineers wherever they are.

Brian Murphy has been replaced by Richard Dixon on the BoB and Linda Bourne is now Chair. Maritime representation on the board is now strong. The next step is to agree the winter timetable.

The Bridges lift hourly on the half hour and boaters should use their VHF radios to let the bridge operators know they are on station. A key point to note - the bridge operator can use his discretion and change the priority of bridge openings, depending on wind, so that safe navigation is maintained.

RNLI will be having work done to raise levels of the site and materials will be coming by barge in June for 4 weeks. Jenkins Marine will be operating hoppers and will be coming through on the scheduled bridge lifts, although they will be suspended on busy days and peak times. Also Old Town Bridge will be closed on 16th April for 10 days, but this will not impact on navigation. BoB are keen to have an emergency drill involving Harbour Master and emergency services - they will identify the best route to the emergency and a day will be reserved for this exercise.

Jon expressed his thanks to the committee and wished he had an association like CQBHA at all the MDL marinas.

A question was raised: What would happen if a bridge fails? Jon responded that there were back up systems for both bridges. Poole Town bridge has a generator and can be opened manually if necessary. The Twin Sails bridge does not have a generator but has two separate ram systems per leaf.

Guest Speaker 2: Peter Hogsden – Cobbs Quay Manager

Peter provided the following information:-

- The dredging is complete and pontoons will be in place next week
- Facilities block family rooms have been refitted
- BBQ area has new decking and the calor gas tanks are being replaced in the barbeques
- New website goes live in April - MyMDL
- Freedom berthing can be booked online
- Passeport Escale
MDL has joined forces with Passport Escale, adding an additional 50 marinas in France for you to visit. You would be able to have 2 to 3 visitor nights for free in the French Marinas and this again can be booked through the new website. A list was available at the meeting.
- At the CQ Open weekend on 13-14 April there will be boat sales, jumble (run by CQBHA), hog roast, children’s activities, climbing wall and segways. Tenants will be having stands and Sunseeker will bring a boat or two. Landrover are attending and the RNLI will be having a flare disposal facility.
- The Dog Fish Dave fishing competition will be on 13th July and there will be a hog roast at the end of the day open to all berth holders.
- Berth holders can get 10% off Harbour dues when purchased at the MDL office during April.

The meeting closed at 11.50

